

February 15, 2018

Ms. Jerri Bunn, Committee Secretary
City of London, Transportation Advisory Committee
jbunn@london.ca

**Subject: Notice of Design Build Project Commencement, Contract 2017-3009
Reconstruction of Highway 401 from 4.1 km west of Elgin Road 20 (Union Road) to 3.7 km west of
Highway 4 (Colonel Talbot Road), Ministry of Transportation - West Region
Detailed Design, Class Environmental Assessment and Construction**

Dear Ms. Bunn,

Aecon Construction and Materials Limited (Aecon) and Parsons Inc. (Parsons) have been retained by the Ministry of Transportation Ontario (MTO) as the Design-Build team to finalize the detailed design and to complete construction for the reconstruction of Highway 401 from 1.4 km west of Union Road easterly to 3.7 km west of Colonel Talbot Road, located in Township of Southwold (Elgin County) and in Middlesex Centre (Middlesex County) (Figure 1).

The planning and design for the reconstruction of this section of Highway 401 was initiated as part of a larger Highway 401 corridor study, which spans the Municipalities of Chatham-Kent, Elgin County, Middlesex County, and the City of London. This section of Highway 401 was identified as Contract 5A. For more information on the broader study, please visit the project site <http://hwy401reconstruction.ca/>. This project is subject to the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act* and is being carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Transportation's Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000) document as a Group C project.

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the detailed design for the above noted project (Contract 5A) has been initiated and to provide information regarding the project and the staging strategy proposed during construction. A project website has also been created. For further information and updates during construction, please visit <http://hwy401reconstructionContract5A.ca/>

This project involves:

- 10 km of full depth pavement reconstruction;
- Rehabilitation of the Mill Road and Union Road Underpasses;
- Rehabilitation of the Dodd Creek Bridges (Highway 401 bridges over Dodd Creek);
- General drainage improvements, including several culvert replacements and rehabilitations; and
- Roadside safety improvements; and lighting upgrades.

Below is a brief overview of the construction staging strategy, including Highway 401 lane restrictions and road closures.

Highway 401 Reconstruction

Reconstruction of this section of Highway 401 will be completed over two years. Pavement reconstruction work will be undertaken on the Highway 401 westbound lanes (WBL) in Year 1 (2018) and the Highway 401 eastbound lanes (EBL) in Year 2 (2019). Refuge areas for disabled vehicles will be provided at 2 km intervals along Highway 401.

Mill Road Underpass Rehabilitation

Structure repairs will be completed at the Mill Road Underpass in Year 1 (2018) with repairs being completed over a period of approximately three months. During this time, Mill Road at the Highway 401 crossing (Mill Road Underpass) will be closed.

During these repairs, Highway 401 will be closed for one night to remove the existing bridge deck and girders and a second night to install new bridge girders. During this time, Highway 401 traffic will be directed onto a local roads detour route.

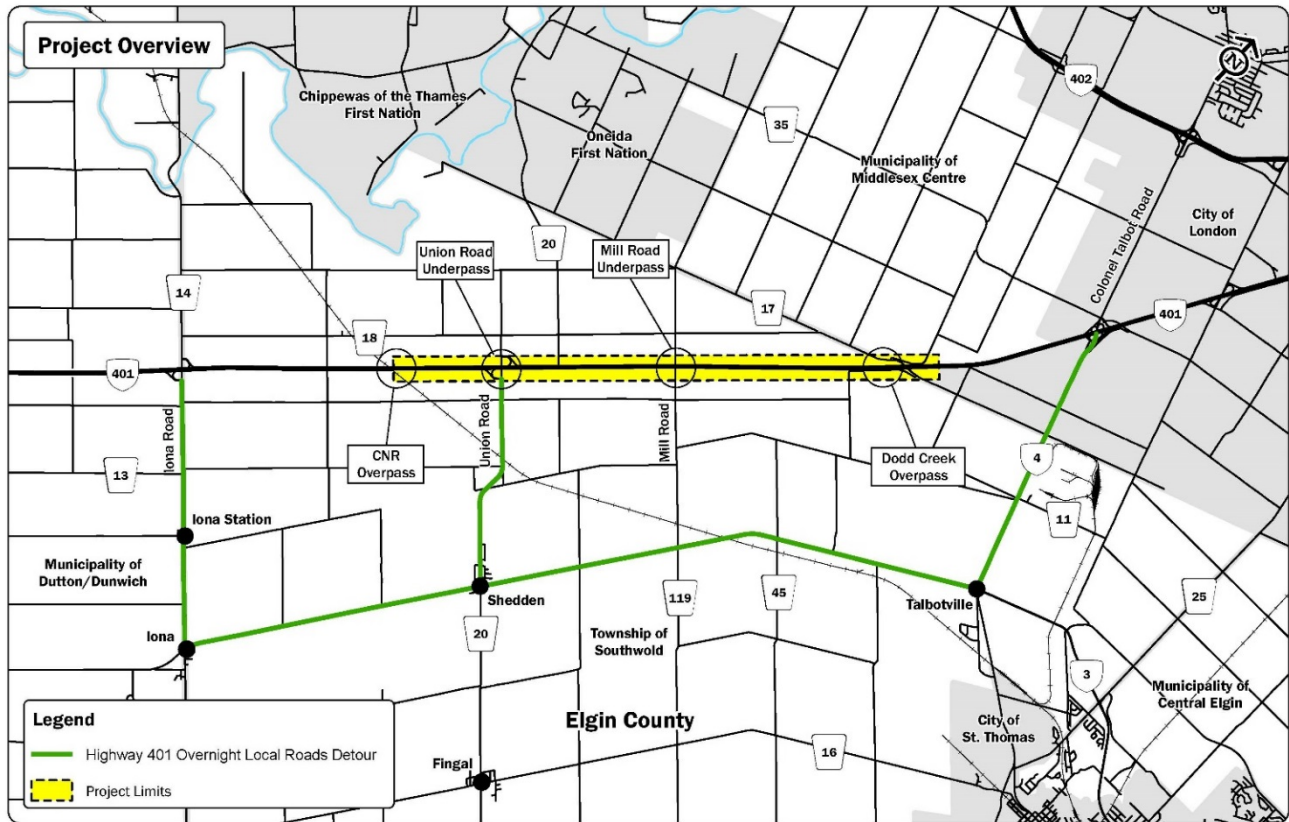


Figure 1. Key Plan

Union Road Underpass Rehabilitation

Structure repairs will be completed at the Union Road Underpass in Season 2 (2019). The work will be done in two stages. During each stage, Highway 401 will be closed for one night to remove the existing bridge deck and girders and a second night to install new bridge girders. During this time, Highway 401 traffic will be diverted onto a local roads detour route. During the remainder of the repairs, Union Road will remain open but reduced to a single lane of alternating traffic controlled by temporary traffic signals.

Access for emergency service providers will be maintained at the Union Road interchange in all directions.

To better disseminate information, a project website has been developed to communicate information regarding the project process, project team contact information and to provide construction updates, please visit the website at www.hwy401reconstructionContract5A.ca.

Yours truly,

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Information will be collected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.